

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY DOHA

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, QA, US, IR, IZ

SUBJECT: AMIR OF QATAR REQUESTS US ASSESSMENT OF IRAN/IRAQ
SETTLEMENT

REF: (A) DOHA 0424 (B) DOHA 0342 (C) LONDON 04329
(D) TEHRAN 2751

KUWAIT ALSO POUCH BAGHDAD; LONDON FOR SOBER

1. PARAGRAPHS 2 THROUGH 8 BELOW ARE INDIVIDUAL TALKING

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POINTS WHICH COVER OUR INITIAL THOUGHTS ON IRAN/IRAQ
SETTLEMENT. YOU MAY USE THIS MATERIAL IN RESPONDING TO

AMIR'S REQUEST FOR US ASSESSMENT.

2. BEGIN ASSESSMENT: CONCLUSION OF ALGIERS ACCORD AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION HAVE COME SO QUICKLY THAT WE DO NOT PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND ALL RAMIFICATIONS. WE DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO AGREEMENT, AND IT IS TOO SOON TO SAY THIS IS "DEFINITIVE END" OF IRAN-IRAQ DISPUTE. BUT BOTH SIDES APPEAR TO HAVE MADE MAJOR GAINS AT SMALL REAL COST TO THEMSELVES, SO BOTH WILL HAVE REAL INTEREST IN MAKING SETTLEMENT WORK. ON THE OTHER HAND, ELEMENTS OF POTENTIAL FRICTION REMAIN IRANIAN ASSISTANCE TO OMAN AGAINST DHOFAR INSURRECTION, WHICH IRAQ SUPPORTS; IRAQI DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS FOR ARMS; AND BASIC INCOMPATIBILITY OF IRAQI AND IRANIAN REGIMES AND IDEOLOGIES.

3. ACCORD CLEARLY HAD UNFORTUNATE RESULTS FOR IRAQI KURDS. WE HAVE MAINTAINED OUR POSITION OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN IRAQI INTERNAL AFFAIRS, BUT WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING ON VERY LOW KEY BASIS INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR THE KURDISH REFUGEES AND FOR THOSE REMAINING IN IRAQ. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE CAN DO ANYTHING EFFECTIVE IN BILATERAL APPROACH TO IRAQI GOVERNMENT, BUT WOULD ENCOURAGE ANY COUNTRY THAT HAS INFLUENCE IN BAGHDAD TO SUPPORT HUMANE TREATMENT OF FORMER REBELS, INCLUDING IRAQI PERMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ENTER IRAQ.

4. AS FOR OTHER IMPLICATIONS OF ACCORD, KUWAIT MAY BECOME A BIT NERVOUS IF, FOLLOWING THE IRAN-IRAQ ACCORD, SAUDIS AND IRAQ SOLVE NEUTRAL ZONE DISPUTE. SETTLEMENT OF KURDISH INSURRECTION ALSO FREES IRAQ TO TURN ITS ATTENTION TO SYRIA. SINCE THE AGREEMENT, IRAQ HAS STEPPED UP ITS PROPAGANDA WAR AGAINST SARG, AND SOME REPORTS INDICATE THAT IRAQ WOULD FAVOR REPLACEMENT OF ASAD WITH "TRUE" BAATHI REGIME LIKE ONE IN IRAQ. IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHAT EFFECTS ACCORD MAY HAVE ON IRAQI SUPPORT FOR DHOFAR REBELS, WHICH IS MORE A FUNCTION OF INTERNAL EVOLUTION OF IRAQI REGIME BUT MAY ALSO BE INFLUENCED BY IRAQI DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH IRAN. SOVIET-IRAQI RELATIONS HAVE ALREADY APPARENTLY

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BEEN AFFECTED ADVERSELY BY IRAQ'S EASING OF POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES (E.G., RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY) AND ITS INCREASING INTEREST IN WESTERN GOODS AND TECHNOLOGY. THESE RELATIONS MAY WELL SUFFER FURTHER AS A RESULT OF THE ACCORD. IRAQ'S RELIANCE ON SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE COULD DECREASE WITH THE END OF THE KURDISH CONFLICT, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT COMES IN THE WAKE OF IRAQI EFFORTS--E.G., THROUGH ITS ARMS DEAL WITH THE FRENCH--TO DIVERSIFY THE SOURCES

OF ITS ARMS SUPPLIES.

5. AS SHAIKH KHALIFA IS AWARE, WE HAVE ONLY LIMITED INFORMATION ON INTERNAL IRAQI SITUATION. WE ARE, HOWEVER, FOLLOWING WITH INTEREST IMPACT ON POLITICAL SITUATION THERE OF MARCH 6 AGREEMENT -- PARTICULARLY ON ROLE PLAYED BY SADDAM HUSSAIN, RCC VICE-CHAIRMAN. SINCE PRESIDENT BAKR IS REPORTEDLY NOT IN BEST OF HEALTH, HUSSAIN HAS APPARENTLY BECOME DE FACTO LEADER OF GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH HE HAS FACED INTERNAL CRITICISM FROM SOME QUARTERS FOR HIS CONDUCT OF MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST KURDS, AND HIS NEW AGREEMENT WITH IRAN COULD ADD TO THIS CRITICISM.

6. LOOKING AT INTERNAL SITUATION IN IRAN, WE SEE NO GREAT CHANGES AS RESULT OF ACCORD WITH IRAQ. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS IN IRAN, THEY ARE NOT AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO INTERNAL STABILITY. MOREOVER, IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN TEHRAN AND BAGHDAD MAY SHUT OFF IRANIAN TERRORISTS' MAIN SOURCE OF FOREIGN SUPPORT.

7. IN SUM, WHILE WE HAVE REACHED NO FINAL CONCLUSIONS WITH REGARD TO IMPLICATIONS OF MARCH 6 ALGIERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAQ AND IRAN, TO DATE WE HAVE HEARD OF NO RPT NO ADVERSE EFFECTS, AND WE ARE HOPING AGREEMENT WILL LEAD TO INCREASED STABILITY IN GULF AREA. END OF ASSESSMENT.
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